## Message Text

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**ACTION SS-15** 

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /037 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3733

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 4464

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON EAID EG OVIP (ROBINSON, CHALRES W.) SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON ECONOMIC PROGRAM

REF STATE 102897

1. AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY TEMPLETON AND PECK, CALLED ON MIN FINANCE ABU ISMAIL EARLY THIS AFTERNOON. THE LATTER HAD BEEN WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN ASYUT AND HAD JUST RETURNED. ABU ISMAIL HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE PRESIDENT ABOUT UNDERSEC'S UPCOMING VISIT AND SAID HE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE VISIT. AT AMBASSADOR'S

REQUEST, HE INDICATED HIS READINESS PROVIDE ANY NEEDED DATA THAT MIGHT

BE AVAILABLE. HE HAD RECEIVED, THROUGH MFA, OUR EARLIER LIST OF NEEDED DATA (STATE 97841). HE CONFIRMED WHAT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY HEARD, NAMELY, PRIMIN HAS INSTRUCTED VARIOUS ECONOMIC MINISTERS TO PREPARE SINGLE COMPOSITE PAPER OUTLINING EGYPT'S FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION. THIS IS NOW IN PROCESS OF PREPARATION, BUT IT IS UNCERTAIN JUST WHEN IT WILL BE COMPLETED.

2. SINCE WE HAVE NEVER BEEN GIVEN COPIES OF IMF MATERIAL SUBMITTED TO GOE, AMBASSADOR ASKED ABU ISMAIL IF GOE COULD PROVIDE THIS. HE READILY AGREED LEND US A. IMF "MEMORANDUM OF DISCUSSIONS," DATED DECEMBER 3, 1974 AND B) SERIES OF STATISTICAL DATA SUBMITTED TO GOE UNDER COVER OF GUNTHER'S LETTER OF APRIL 19. LATTER DOCUMENT, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO COVER ONLY EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC BUDGETARY AND MONETARY PROBLEMS. IT HAS NOTHING ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. ABU ISMAIL WAS UNAWARE WHETHER IMF HAD SUBMITTED ANYTHING ON EGYPTIAN B/P. CONFIDENTIAL

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- 3. AT AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST, ABU ISMAIL ARRANGED THAT MIN FINANCE UNDER SECRETARY SARRAF WILL BE ON HAND 1200, MONDAY, FOR TWO HOURS TO MEET WITH ADVANCE PARTY. HE IS ALSO TRYING TO ARRANGE THAT OTHERS BE PRESENT AT THAT MEETING, BUT WE MUST CAUTION THAT BIG "SNIFFING OF THE BREEZE" SPRING HOLIDAY MAKES THIS OTHER PARTICIPATION UNCERTAIN. SARRAF IS KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIAL, EVEN IF SOMETIMES A BIT SLIPPERY.
- 4. ABU ISMAIL WAS GIVEN THE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL.
- 5. EMBOFFS ARE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL BANK AL-BUNNA ASCERTAIN WHAT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THAT SOURCE. RE COMMERCIAL CREDIT QUESTION NEWLY RAISED PARA 2 REFTEL, NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT IS PROBABLY BEST SOURCE. OUR EFFORTS CONTACT DIRECTOR OF NBE. HAMID SAYIGH, PROVED FRUITLESS SINCE HE IS IN ALEXANDRIA. EMBASSY ENDEAVORING OBTAIN INFORMATION BUT HIS APPROVAL NEEDED BEFORE SUBORDINATES WILL COMPLY.
- 6. WE ASSUME ALL DATA AVAILABLE TO IMF HAS BEEN OBTAINED DURING MAY 2 MEETING. WILL BE HELPFUL HAVE COPIES OF ANY IMF DOCUMENTATION NOT MENTIONED ABOVE SINCE EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC INFORMATION IS LIMITED.
- 7. WE NOTE FROM STATE 103145 THAT IBRD ECONOMIC MISSION EXPECTS VISIT EGYPT FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR WEEKS BEGINNING MAY 6. ITS PURPOSE APPEARS BE SIMILAR TO EXERCISE IN WHCH WE ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED. EILTS

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